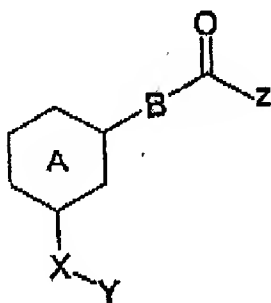


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

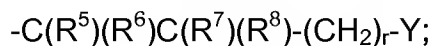
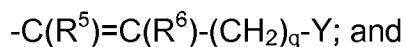
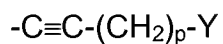
1. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula I, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,



wherein

Z is NR^1R^2 wherein each of R^1 and R^2 is independently H, or a hydrocarbyl group;

X-Y is selected from



wherein each of R^5 , R^6 , R^7 , and R^8 is independently H or alkyl, and each of p, q and r is independently 2, 3, or 4;

Y is a polar functional group selected from OH, NO_2 , CN, $\text{COR}[[.]^3$, COOR^3 , NR^3R^4 ,

CONR^3R^4 , SO_3H , SO_2-R^3 , $\text{SO}_2\text{NR}^3\text{R}^4$ and CF_3 , where each of R^3 and R^4 is independently H or a hydrocarbyl group;

A is phenyl; and

B is $(CH_2)_n$ where n is 0[[:]]

with the proviso that:

- ~~(i) when A is phenyl, and Z is OH, X-Y is other than $C \equiv C-(CH_2)_2OH$, $C \equiv C-(CH_2)_2OH$, $C \equiv C-(CH_2)_2CO_2Me$, $(CH_2)_4CO_2H$; and~~
- ~~(ii) when A is phenyl, and Z is OMe, X-Y is other than $C \equiv C-(CH_2)_4OH$; $(CH_2)_4-CHO$, *cis*- $CH=CH-(CH_2)_3OH$, *trans*- $CH=CH-(CH_2)_3OH$;~~
- ~~and wherein the compound is other than 1-(N-octylcarbamoyl)methyl 3-carboxmidopyridinium chloride, 3-methylcarbamoyl 1-dodecyloxycarbonylmethylpyridinium or 6-aminomethylpyridine-2-carboxylic acid-ethyl ester.~~

2. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein Y is selected from CN, OH, $COOR^3$, $SO_2NR^3R^4$, $CONR^3R^4$, where each of R^3 and R^4 is independently H or a hydrocarbyl group.

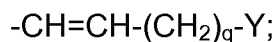
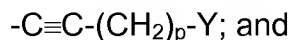
3. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein each of R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 is independently H, an alkyl group, an aryl group, or a cycloalkyl group, each of which may be optionally substituted.

4. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein Y is selected from OH, CN, $COOR^3$, $CONR^3R^4$, where each of R^3 and R^4 is independently H or an optionally substituted alkyl group.

5. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein Y is selected from OH, CN, $COOMe$, $COOH$, $CONH_2$, $CONHMe$ and $CONMe_2$.

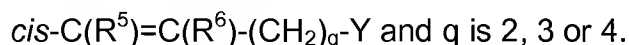
Claim 6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein X-Y is selected from



wherein each of p and q is independently 2, 3 or 4.

8. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein X-Y is



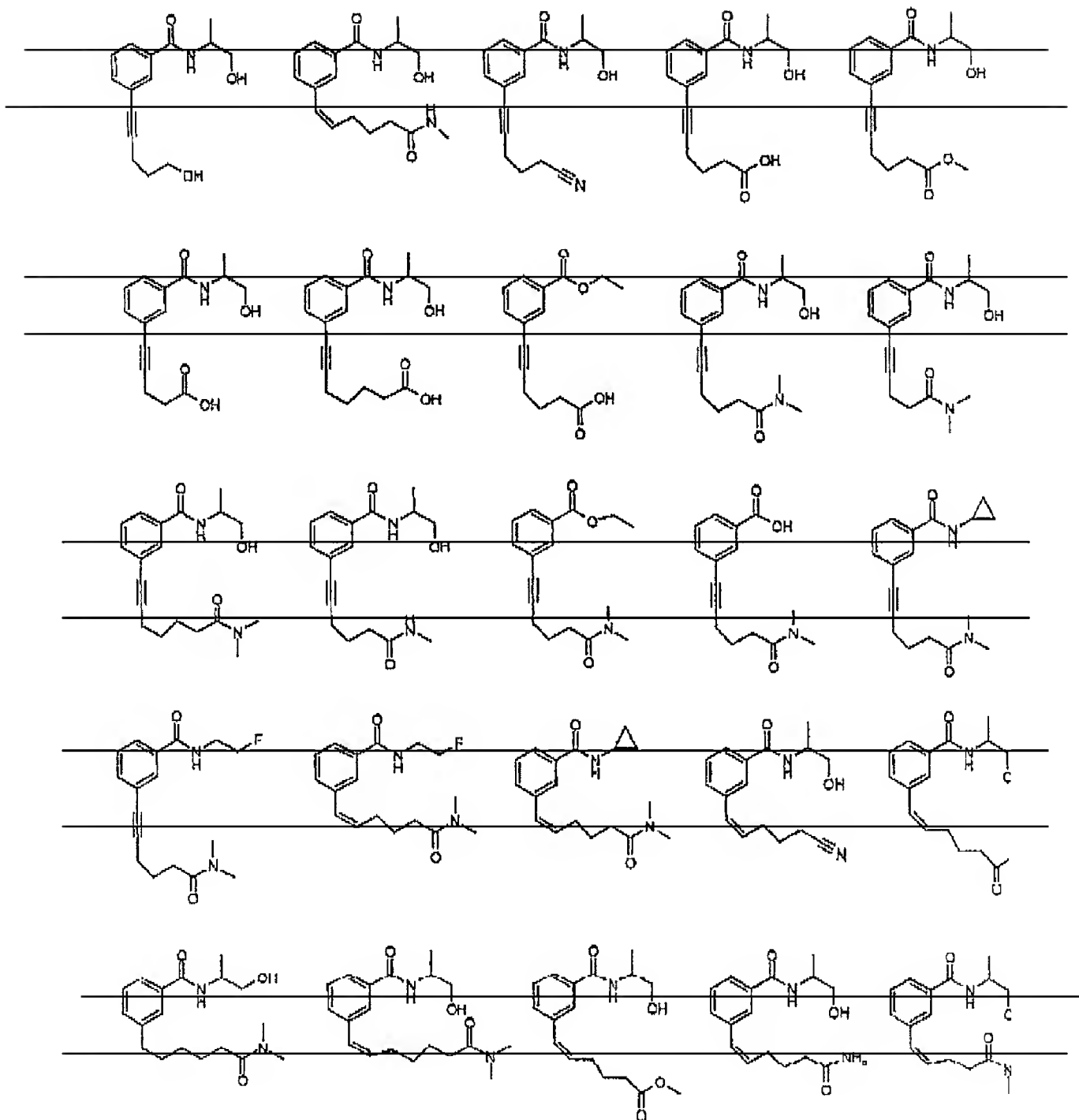
9. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein X-Y is –
 $C(Me)_2-CH_2-(CH_2)_r-Y$ and r is 2, 3 or 4.

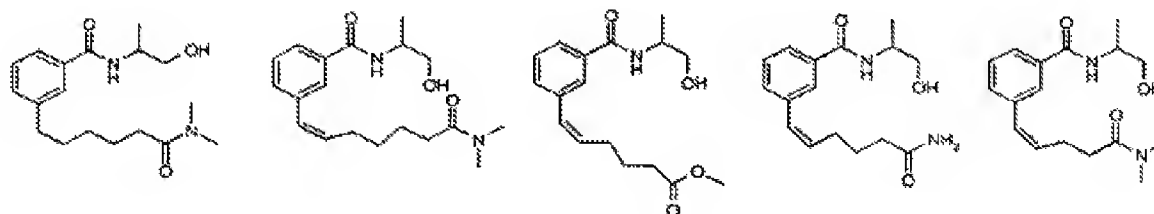
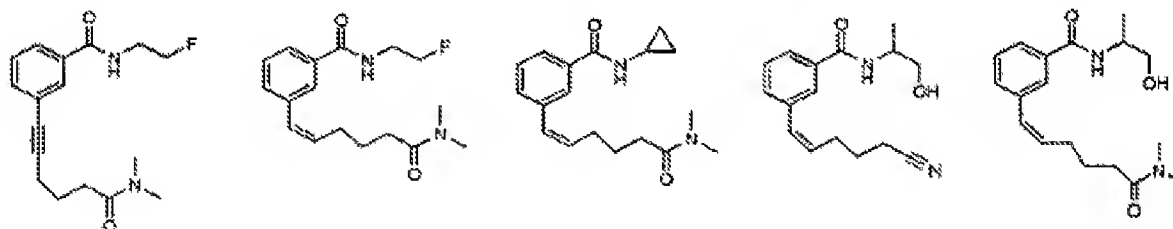
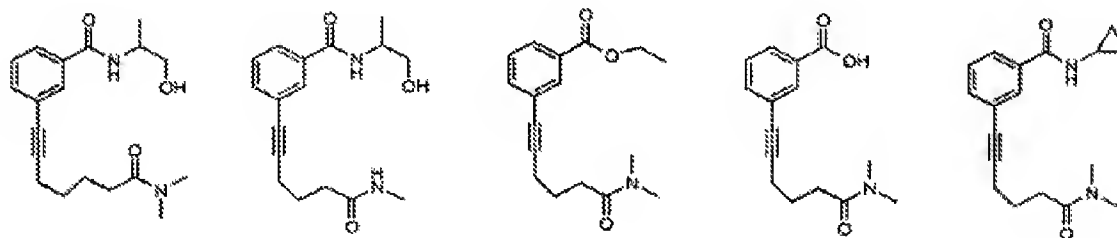
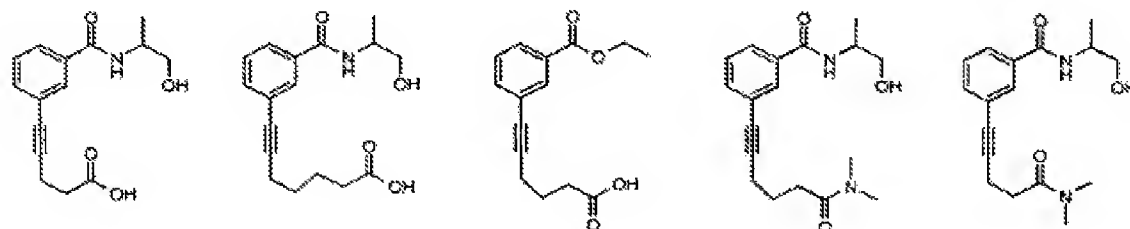
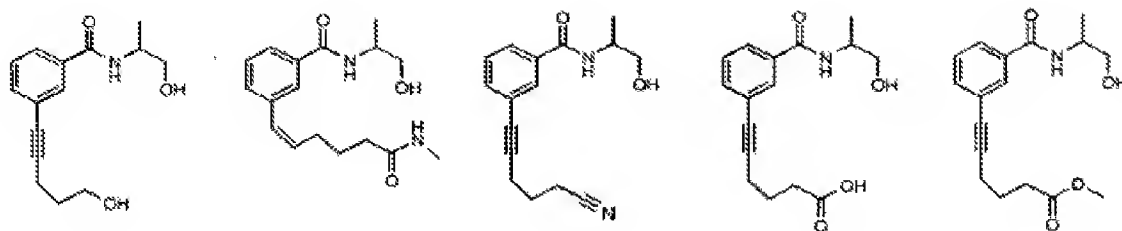
Claim 10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1 wherein Z is $\underline{NR^1R^2}$
 ~~OR^1 or NR^1R^2~~ and each of R^1 and R^2 is independently H, an alkyl or a cycloalkyl group,
each of which may be optionally substituted by one or more OH or halogen groups.

12. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1 wherein Z is
selected from ~~OH , OEt~~ , $NHCH_2CH_2F$, NH -cyclopropyl, $NHCH(Me)CH_2OH$ and
 $NHCH_2CH_2OH$

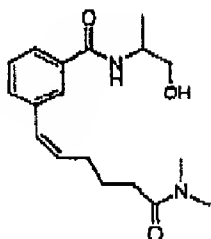
13. (Currently Amended) A compound ~~according to claim 1~~ which is selected
from the group consisting of the following:





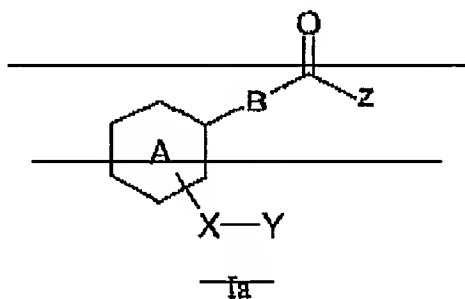
, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof

14. (Original) The compound of claim 13 which is



15. (Original) The compound of claim 14 which is in the form of a racemic mixture.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a muscular disorder in a subject in need thereof, said method comprising administering to the subject a compound of claim 1 ~~formula Ia~~, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;



wherein

~~Z is OR⁺ or NR₁R₂ wherein each of R₁ and R₂ is independently H, or a hydrocarbyl group;~~

~~X is an alkylene, alkenylene, or alkynylene group, each of which may be optionally substituted;~~

~~Y is a polar functional group;~~

~~A is an aryl or heteroaryl group, each of which may be optionally substituted; and~~

~~B is (CH₂)_n where n is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5.~~

17. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 16 wherein the muscular disorder is a neuromuscular disorder.

Claims 18-29. (Canceled)

30. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 16 wherein Y is selected from NO_2 , CN , OR^3 , COR^3 , COOR^3 , NR^3R^4 , CONR^3R^4 , SO_3H , $\text{SO}_2\text{-R}^3$, $\text{SO}_2\text{NR}^3\text{R}^4$ and CF_3 , where each of R^3 and R^4 is independently H or a hydrocarbyl group.

31. (Currently Amended) A method compound according to claim 16 wherein Y is selected from CN , COOR^3 ~~COOR^3~~ , $\text{SO}_2\text{NR}^3\text{R}^4$, CONR^3R^4 , where each of R^3 and R^4 is independently H or a hydrocarbyl group.

Claim 32. (Canceled)

Claims 33-37. (Canceled)

38. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, admixed with pharmaceutically acceptable diluent, excipient or carrier.

Claims 39-40. (Canceled)

41. (New) A method of treating a muscular disorder in a subject in need thereof, said method comprising administering to the subject a compound of claim 2, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

42. (New) A method of treating a muscular disorder in a subject in need thereof, said method comprising administering to the subject a compound of claim 3, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

43. (New) A method of treating a muscular disorder in a subject in need thereof, said method comprising administering to the subject a compound of claim 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

44. (New) A method of treating a muscular disorder in a subject in need thereof, said method comprising administering to the subject a compound of claim 5, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

45. (New) A method of treating a muscular disorder in a subject in need thereof, said method comprising administering to the subject a compound of claim 7, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

46. (New) A method of treating a muscular disorder in a subject in need thereof, said method comprising administering to the subject a compound of claim 8, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

47. (New) A method of treating a muscular disorder in a subject in need thereof, said method comprising administering to the subject a compound of claim 9, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

48. (New) A method of treating a muscular disorder in a subject in need thereof, said method comprising administering to the subject a compound of claim 11, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

49. (New) A method of treating a muscular disorder in a subject in need thereof, said method comprising administering to the subject a compound of claim 12, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

50. (New) A method of treating a muscular disorder in a subject in need thereof, said method comprising administering to the subject a compound of claim 13, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

51. (New) A method of treating a muscular disorder in a subject in need thereof, said method comprising administering to the subject a compound of claim 14, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

52. (New) A method of treating a muscular disorder in a subject in need thereof, said method comprising administering to the subject a compound of claim 15, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.